
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 20, 2003

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SENATE PASSES BILL PROMOTING HISTORY AND CIVICS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, today lauded the passage of The American History and Civics Education Act of 2003, a bill that will help reemphasize the teaching and learning of American history and civics in our nation's classrooms.

The legislation will create three specific programs to accomplish these goals. First, it will authorize the creation of up to twelve "Presidential Academies for Teaching of American History and Civics." These two-week workshops, free to the K-12 teachers who participate, will increase knowledge of American history as well demonstrate creative and innovative teaching methods. The measure also establishes "Congressional Academies" for outstanding high school students to attend four-week sessions to learn about American history. Finally it creates a National Alliance of Teachers of American History to facilitate the sharing of ideas.

Senator Gregg stated, "There is a growing 'historical illiteracy' problem facing our nation's youth. The Senate's 90-0 vote in favor this bill sends a strong message to our country's teachers and parents that we intend to work on solving this problem. Our nation's history is rich with achievement. As we pass our nation on to the next generation, we must ensure that they are prepared for what lies ahead of them by understanding what has happened before them. I applaud the Senate for its commitment to the education of tomorrow's leaders."

Bill Summary: S. 504, American History and Civics Education Act of 2003

- Creates grants for Presidential Academies for K-12 teachers to strengthen their ability to teach American history and civics.
- Creates grants for Congressional Academies where outstanding high school juniors and seniors can further study American history and civics.
- Creates a national alliance for history and civics teachers to share ideas and innovations.

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